EXCISE

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ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3089
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14513
FOR NEA/EGY
E.O. 12065: GDS 6/17/87 (WENDT, E. ALLAN) OR-M
TAGS: US, EG, PEPR, SOPN
SUBJECT: PRESS INQUIRY ON MEETING BETWEEN CHARGE AND VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK ON ISRAELI IRAQ RAID

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☒ in part B-1
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. (C)

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2. (U) TEXT OF EXCERPT OF JUNE 15 "MAY" INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT SADAT ON MUBARAK MEETING WITH CHARGE FOLLOWS (IN TRANSLATION):
QUESTION: IN SOME QUARTERS IT IS SAID THE UNITED STATES LEARNED OF THE ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATION BEFORE IT HAPPENED. WHAT DOES HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT, THINK ABOUT THIS?
SADAT: I DON'T DEFEND THE U.S. AND I DON'T KNOW IF IT HAD KNOWN ABOUT THE RAID BEFORE IT HAPPENED OR NOT. ALL I CAN SAY IS WHAT HAPPENED A FEW HOURS BEFORE BEGIN ANNOUNCED THE DETAILS OF THE MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST IRAQ.
BEGIN ANNOUNCED THE OPERATION AT NOON. AT EIGHT IN THE MORNING OF THE SAME DAY, HOSNI MUBARAK, THE VICE PRESIDENT, GOT AN URGENT CALL FROM THE AMERICAN

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ASKING AND INSISTING ON MEETING WITH HIM. HOSNI AGREED AND ASKED THE CHARGE TO COME TO HIS HOUSE. A FEW MINUTES LATER THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WAS AT THE HOME OF THE VICE PRESIDENT. HE ASKED THE VICE PRESIDENT IF CAIRO HAD LEARNED OF THE ISRAELI STRIKE THAT DESTROYED THE IRAQI NUCLEAR CENTER. HOSNI MUBARAK WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THE NEWS AND DENIED THAT HE KNEW ABOUT IT. THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT AGAIN ASKED IF BEGIN HAD INFORMED SADAT OF THE RAID AND ITS TIMING DURING THEIR MEETING IN SHARM EL SHEIKH. HOSNI ANSWERED: "OF COURSE NOT. IN FACT, PRESIDENT SADAT DID NOT TELL ME WHETHER BEGIN INFORMED HIM OF THE OPERATION OR NOT, BUT I CAN CONFIRM TO YOU THAT BEGIN DID NOT SAY A WORD TO PRESIDENT SADAT ON THIS ISSUE. IF THIS HAD HAPPENED, I AND OTHER HIGH

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LEVEL OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE KNOWN BECAUSE WE ARE A COUNTRY OF INSTITUTIONS AND DON'T HAVE ANY SECRETS (FROM ONE ANOTHER). AND TO BE SURE OF MY STATEMENT, I AM GOING TO PHONE PRESIDENT SADAT TO ASK HIM IN YOUR PRESENCE." HOSNI CALLED ME AND RELAYED TO ME THE QUESTION OF THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, AND I TOLD HIM..."HOSNI, HAVE THE AMERICANS IMAGINED THAT BEGIN INFORMED ME OF WHAT HE WAS INTENDING TO DO TO IRAQ, OR AT LEAST THAT I KNEW?...."

HOSNI RELAYED MY DENIAL TO THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, AND HE DESCRIBED THIS WORK (RAID) AS A BIG ATTACK AGAINST PEACE IN THE AREA.

WENDT

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